

EU Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km²)
2. Associated EU Results Framework statement and primary SDG
SDG 14 – Life below water EU RF statement - Promote the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and the sustainable management of ocean resources
3. Technical Definition
<p>The indicator refers to the EU interventions in support to the creation and/or conservation of marine protected areas and to the introduction of sustainable management measures as measured in square kilometres (km²) of areas under a) protection and b) sustainable management.</p> <p>Since 2012 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) does not make a distinction between a marine and a terrestrial protected area, which is defined as <i>"a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values"</i>¹.</p> <p>Examples of EU interventions in support of marine ecosystems protection include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to increase the surface of protected areas, either by the creation of (a) new one(s), or the extension of (an) existing one(s); – to consolidate the management of existing protected areas or networks of protected areas, through supplying technical or financial assistance or equipment, strengthening capacities, or the set-up of management committee and management plans; – to strengthen the management system in place so as to effectively protect the area and to prevent it from degradation or depletion. <p>Sustainable management practices aim at maintaining and enhancing marine ecosystems and the services they provide and ensuring their sustainable use.</p> <p>Examples of EU interventions in support of sustainable management of marine ecosystems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the provision of technical and financial assistance to support the restoration and sustainable use of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems, through reforestation, reducing pollution and waste disposal, and measures to regulate the conversion of mangroves to aquaculture; – the provision of technical and financial assistance to promote the monitoring of fish stocks and regulate and control both oceanic and coastal fisheries in order to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), maintain fish catches at levels that no not exceed sustainable yield thresholds; – the promotion of economic activities that contribute to maintain the integrity of marine

¹ IUCN (2012) Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas.

<p>ecosystems, such as eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries and whale watching;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – promotion of regional policies and institutional frameworks of secure more sustainable management of marine ecosystems including territorial approaches for sustainable seascape management.
<p>4. Rationale (including policy priorities and links to this indicator)</p>
<p>The indicator is in line with the New Consensus for Development priority to promote the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, the sustainable management of ocean resources and sustainable fisheries, through improved ocean governance and the development of the blue economy.</p> <p>The global blue economy is set to grow faster than the general economy, possibly doubling in size by 2030. However, in a business-as-usual scenario, the environmental impacts and losses in natural capital from unsustainable economic activity in the ocean risk eroding the resource base on which such growth depends. Concerted action to protect and restore ocean health is therefore needed.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda also highlights the need to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG 14).</p> <p>The EU Joint Communication on "International ocean governance agenda for the future of our oceans" ((JOIN(2016) 49) proposes ways the EU can step-up and play a stronger role at global and regional level in shaping the way oceans are managed and used. It sets out detailed actions to shape international governance in three priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving the international ocean governance framework; 2. Reducing human pressure on the oceans and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy; 3. Strengthening international ocean research and data.
<p>5. Level of disaggregation and other reporting requirements</p>
<p>The figures should be disaggregated by:</p> <p>a) areas under protection, b) areas managed sustainably.</p> <p>Please report the actual geographical area(s) of operation.</p>
<p>6. Data Sources (including issues on different definitions by source and level of availability of the data)</p>
<p>For marine areas under protection, the main data source is the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)², the most comprehensive global dataset on marine and terrestrial protected areas available. The WDPA is a joint product of UNEP and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), prepared by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas working with Governments, the Secretariats of Multilateral</p>

² <https://www.protectedplanet.net/c/world-database-on-protected-areas>

Environmental Agreements, and collaborating Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Digital Observatory of Protected Areas (DOPA)³, developed by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), is based on the WDPA, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and JRC's own remote sensing products such as the Global Landcover 2000.

According to the country assessed, where available and disclosable, other sources can be the ministries or government agencies in charge of the management of the National Protected Areas Systems. Some have developed their own web-based observatory of protected areas where data are easily available.

For marine areas under **sustainable management**:

The national reports on the state of the environment and on the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity provide valuable information.

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems may also yield useful information: annual and final reports from implementing organisations (e.g. government agencies, international organisations, non-state actors, etc.), ROM reviews, evaluations, etc.

7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made)

This indicator covers the marine areas (in square kilometres) under a) protection or b) sustainable management in line with the technical definition stated above.

The same area supported by the EU intervention(s) in successive years should only be counted once and particular attention should be given to avoid double counting.

8. Worked examples

Example A

An EU intervention is providing support to four countries to establish 6 National Marine Protected Areas (2 MPA in one country, and 1 MPA in each of the other four countries). The intervention includes support to the national authorities to draft and adopt the declarations to establish the MPAs. The overall surface of the 6 established MPAs is 4,500 km².

For this intervention, 4,500 km² can be reported as marine areas under a) protected with EU support.

Example B

An EU intervention managed by the delegation in Nicaragua aims at enhancing the conservation and management of marine biodiversity in the Gulf of Fonseca bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. As part of its efforts, the intervention has supported the restoration of 1,217 ha of mangroves.

Converted to square kilometre, 12.17 km² of coastal area can be reported under b) sustainable management with EU support.

9. Is it used by another organisation or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which?

³ <http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en>

The UNDP Integrated Results and Resources Framework 2018-21 has an indicator that covers both terrestrial and water habitat (fresh or marine):

Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime: a) Area of land and marine habitat under protection (hectares); b) Area of existing protected area under improved management (hectares); c) Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under cooperative management; d) Area under sustainable forest management (hectares); e) Biodiversity (using appropriate units of measure); f) Amount of chemicals reduced or disposed (metric tons); g) Other

10. Other issues

N/A